ESTTA Tracking number:

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Filing date:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91233690
Party	Defendant Rusty Ralph Lemorande
Correspondence Address	RUSTY LEMORANDE 1245 NORTH CRESCENT HEIGHTS BLVD #B LOS ANGELES, CA 90046 UNITED STATES Email: lemorande@gmail.com
Submission	Opposition/Response to Motion
Filer's Name	Ralph Lemorande
Filer's email	Lemorande@gmail.com
Signature	/Ralph Lemorande/
Date	03/28/2018
Attachments	NOLD.Applicant Surrebuttal.SEND.pdf(624932 bytes)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Opposition date: 11/29/2016 Opposition Number: 91233690 For the Mark: NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD			
D (T 1))		
Rusty Lemorande in pro per)		
)		
Petitioner,)		
)		
VS.)		
)		
IMAGE 10, INC.)		
)		
Respondent.)		

Serial No: 87090468

OPPOSER'S SURREBUTTAL TO OPPOSER'S OPPOSITION TO APPLICANT'S COMBINED MOTION TO COMPEL AND MOTION TO EXTEND DISCOVERY AND TRIAL DATES

Opposer, in its opposition to the above referenced motion ("Motion"), misstates facts and makes allegations that are erroneous and possibly designed to inappropriately influence the TTAB in its decision regarding the Motion.

To wit, Opposer states:

"Applicant had served 105 document production requests upon Opposer, to which Opposer had provided objections and some responses to the first 75."

This is true. However, as stated in the Motion, Opposer did not make a general objection, as the rule requires, providing some responses with promises of forthcoming documents. As stated in the Motion, this arguably constituted a waiver and created a

reasonable expectation that no further objection beyond the various pattern objections in Opposer's response document.

Opposer then states:

"Per the TTAB Order of February 8, 2018, Opposer properly amended its responses as set forth in Trademark Rules 2.120(d) and (e), as well as TBMP 405.03(e) and 406.05, objecting to each of the discovery requests on the basis that they violate 37 C.F.R. §2.120(e)."

What is disingenuous in this is that **Opposer waited 28 days** to make such an objection, which if appropriate (which Applicant argued, in his Motion, is not given the clear waiver expressed by supplying some responses and promising forthcoming documents) showed either negligence or a calculated attempt to box Applicant out of discovery, raising the objection merely a few days prior to the Discovery deadline.

The TTAB rule pertaining to a 'general objection' clearly states:

If a party upon which requests have been served believes that the number of requests served exceeds the limitation specified in this paragraph, and is **not willing to waive this basis for objection**, the party shall, within the time for **(and instead of)** serving responses and specific objections to the requests, serve a general objection. [Emphasis added].

Clearly the above rule states that a party should serve a general objection only 'instead of' serving responses, and only if 'not willing to waive' this basis for objection. Both conditions, stated in the conjunctive, were unmet by Opposer. Therefore, a clear resulting understanding by any reasonable person – whether experienced counsel or *in pro per* – would be that responses would be forthcoming. Applicant, honestly and in good faith, waited on Opposer and to his detriment if the TTAB should find in favor of Opposer in this matter.

Opposer further states:

"Again, given that the TTAB had issued its order on February 8, 2018, Applicant did not take any action with regard to the contents of the order to narrow the number of document production requests until just days before the close of discovery. Such delay appears to be for purposes of lengthening these opposition procedures and harassing Opposer, and not for the purposes of legitimate discovery."

This is a misstatement of the events, and speculation, at best, apparently designed to prejudice the TTAB against Applicant's action. In fact, Opposer <u>waited 28 days</u> to state its objection subsequent to the TTAB order. As stated, Applicant reasonably and in good faith awaited the promised documents from Opposer, rationally understanding that Opposer had waived its objection by 1) partially responding, 2) promising forthcoming documents. Additionally, Applicant had more than a reasonable belief that Opposer would comply with the TTAB order that specifically stated:

"Opposer is allowed thirty days from the mailing date of this order to serve supplemental responses to Applicant's first set of requests for admission, requests for production, and interrogatories commensurate with the discovery guidelines set forth in this order." [Emphasis added]

In other words, a plain reading of the TTAB order states that supplemental requests for production were to be served by Opposer to Applicant. The order clearly does not state, as an alternative, that a general objection could be made. If this seemed ambiguous to Opposer, it seems to have had an obligation to at least communicate this ambiguity and possible confusion in a meet and confer communication with Applicant.

It did not. Applicant properly met and conferred on this matter to no avail. (See Exhibit C. Highlights added.)

In good faith, Applicant waited those 30 days only to receive only an 11th hour 'general objection'. As a result, after receiving this surprising 'objection', Applicant

promptly compiled and sent a revised document request. (See Exhibit A.)

In addition, Opposer continued perpetuating its possible negligence or deception by actually responding, by email, to Applicant's requests for tax records, <u>not</u> by stating it generally objected to the totality of the document requests, but by making specific arguments against the production of tax returns. This back-and-forth went on for some time, and in no instance did Opposer state a general objection based on the excess number of requests. (See Exhibit B – A sample only of Emails pertaining to Applicant's requests and responses. Highlights added).

Opposer's then states that Applicant's action:

"...appears to be for purposes of lengthening these opposition procedures and harassing Opposer, and not for the purposes of legitimate discovery."

Hopefully, the TTAB will be reminded of its own finding that Opposer did not properly comply with any of the initial discovery requests, ordering Opposer to readdress the matter. This failure to properly comply initially (except with largely boilerplate rejections) clearly unnecessarily lengthened the proceedings, expending time and resources not only for Applicant but for the TTAB. To call this 'harassment' as Opposer does seems dissembling, and my Opposer's current stance it seems, once again, to be causing needless delay and, perhaps, harassment.

Opposer next states:

"Applicant clearly is not familiar with the procedures as set forth in Chapter 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations."

This is not true. Applicant respectfully submits that he has made every effort to be

scrupulous in following the rules, and any error could be deemed excusable, and certainly has not prejudiced Opposer.

Opposer states:

"Opposer is under no obligation to teach Applicant about the Code of Federal Regulations to ensure that he is aware of how things should be properly done."

This is not only an inapposite statement but is downright silly. Even a grade-schooler would know not to seek 'teaching' from an adversary. In fact, it appears Opposer has, through its 'teaching', attempted to misdirect Applicant. See, for example, Exhibits B & C in which Opposer states a proposition that simply isn't true – that Tax Records are never admissible. Applicant properly researched the issue and provided proof to Opposer. In other words, Applicant was clearly not persuaded by Opposer's 'teaching'.

Opposer further states:

"Applicant's amended requests are untimely."

Again, Applicant respectfully asserts that Opposer's possibly intentional and dissembling maneuvers were designed to ambush Applicant and box him into a discovery corner. Applicant requests that the TTAB not allow this to occur.

Opposer next states:

"Applicant should not be given special treatment because he is proper."

Applicant does not seek special treatment as he stated in his Motion. The problem is not a failure by Applicant to comprehend the Code of Federal Regulations, but badly placed good faith and belief in Opposer's promises and waiver.

Most egregiously, Opposer states:

"Opposer has had to file responses to Applicant's multiple Motions to Compel, which are inappropriate and unnecessary." [Emphasis added]

This statement seems an offense not only to Applicant but also to the TTAB. Clearly, Opposer's initial discovery responses were non-responsive and inappropriate. The subsequent order by the TTAB proves this. Applicant submits that Opposer's delay in stating its 'general objection', and prior promises of forthcoming documents, now causes the current situation. In fact, Opposer has been dilatory on several occasions. For example, only upon an inquiry a week after the deadline for initial discovery did Opposer submit its responses. Applicant did not object. Opposer later claimed it had failed to make a proper email connection but, as of this date, has not explained why this delay was not immediately communicated to Applicant, or why Opposer failed to then utilize a DROPBOX created exclusively for Opposer's use, a use which Opposer ignored causing further delay of a document which once received by mail clearly could not have exceeded the stated 25mb email attachment limit.

Applicant does not seek special treatment as he stated in his Motion, and, for all the reasons stated above, applicant does not believe that the delays should be attributed to Applicant, or at least, if so, in the minority of instances, if any.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Applicant asserts that Opposer once again, rather than allowing fair discovery which might resolve the opposition swiftly, saving Image 10, Applicant and the TTAB unnecessary costs and delays, is possibly using tactical procedures and both misstatement and misapplication of the rules to pursue its litigation.

As of this date, more than SEVEN MONTHS since Applicant's document requests

were first propounded, <u>Applicant still has received nothing</u>. Surely, this will be seen, by the TTAB, as unfair and a violation of basic discovery purposes and intentions.

CERTIFICATION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORT TO RESOLVE DISPUTE

In accordance with Trademark Rule 2.120(e), Petitioner hereby certifies that he has made a good faith effort to resolve the issues presented above.

SUSPENSION PENDING RESOLUTION

With respect to the effect of a motion to compel discovery, the Trademark Rules of Practice provide:

When a party files a motion for an order to compel initial disclosure, expert testimony disclosure, or discovery, the case will be suspended by the Board with respect to all matters not germane to the motion.

37 C.F.R. § 2.120(e)(2).

Respectfully, Petitioner asks that this matter be suspended, and the trial dates extended and/or reset pending resolution of this motion.

Dated: March 27, 2018 Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Lemorande In Pro Per 1245 North Crescent Heights Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90046 Telephone: (323) 309 6146

/Rusty Lemorande/ Rusty Lemorande. In Pro Per

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE AND FILING

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing APPLICANT'S SURREBUTAL TO **OPPOSER'S OPPOSITION TO APPLICANT'S COMBINED MOTION TO COMPEL AND MOTION TO EXTEND DISCOVERY AND TRIAL DATES** was served on counsel for Image 10 LLC by e- mailing said copy, as agreed by counsel, on March 27, 2018, to the following email address: Michael Meeks. At mmeeks@buchalter.com, Farah Bhatti at fbhatti@buchalter.com, and hblan@buchalter.com, Farah Bhatti at fbhatti@buchalter.com, and hblan@buchalter.com

/Rusty Lemorande/	
Rusty Lemorande	



EXHIBIT A

Serial No: 87090468

Opposition Number: 91233690 Defendant Lemorande Exhibit

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

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IMAGE TEN, INC.

Opposition No. 91233690

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7

8

V.

RUSTY LEMORANDE

Opposer

Applicant

RUSTY LEMORANDE'S SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF

DOCUMENTS

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10 PROPOUNDING PARTY:

Rusty Lemorande ("Rusty")

RESPONDING PARTY:

Image Ten, Inc.

REQUEST SET NO.:

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Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 2.120 of the Trademark Rules of Practice, Applicant Rusty Ralph Lemorande ("Applicant") hereby requests that Opposer Image Ten, Inc. ("Opposer") produce the following documents and other tangible things within the possession, custody, or control of Applicant.

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DEFINITIONS.

- 20
- 1 ""Action" shall mean any law suit, arbitration, opposition proceeding, cancellation proceeding, or other legal action before a court, tribunal or regulatory agency with
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- the power to grant relief.

commercial moving picture medium.

- 2. "Mark" shall mean the phrase "NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD" or variations
- 23 on such phrase for use with Motion Picture creation, production, distribution or licensing.

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3. "Motion Picture" shall mean a movie, film, made for television movie, or other

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4. "Rusty" shall mean Rusty Lemorande an individual and resident of California.

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5. "Document" is used in its customary broad sense to include, by way of illustration

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only and not by way of limitation, all written or graphic matter of every kind and description,

whether printed or reproduced by any process, or written and/or produced by hand, whether final or draft, original or reproduction, whether in actual or constructive possession, custody, or control of the party, including: letters, correspondence, memoranda of telephone or personal conversations, emails, microfilm, microfiches, telegrams, books, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, periodicals, bulletins, circulars, brochures, pamphlets, statements, notices, advertising layouts, trade letters, press releases, reports, rules, regulations, directives, teletype or telefax messages, minutes or records of meetings, interoffice communications, financial statements, ledgers, books of account, proposals, prospectuses, offers, orders, receipts, working papers, desk calendars, appointment books, logs, diaries, routing slips, time sheets, logs, movies, tapes (or visual or audio reproductions), drawings, blueprints, sketches, plans, graphs, charts, photographs, shipping papers, purchase orders, phonograph records, data processing paper results, data printouts and computations (both in hard-copy form and stored in memory components) transcripts of oral statements or testimony.

- 6. "Identify" (a) when used with respect to a person means to set forth the name, business position, business address and telephone number, and residential address and telephone number of such person; (b) when used with respect to a Gaming License, means to set forth the jurisdiction where the license was granted, the government or regulatory agency that issued the license, the category or type of license, and current status of license: (c) when used with respect to a Gaming Application, means to set forth the jurisdiction where the application was submitted, the date the application was submitted, the category or type of license applied for, and the current status of application; (d) when used with respect to a Hotel, means to set forth the complete name of the hotel, its physical address, telephone number and website address, and; (e) when used in any other context shall be construed according to its common meaning to require the disclosure of Your knowledge or information in Your possession that is necessary to establish the identity of the subject matter to which the interrogatory pertains.
- 7. "Oppositions" shall mean any forms of objection or opposition to a Third Party's use of a particular trademark, service mark, trade name or fictitious firm name, including but not limited to any cease and desist letter, a complaint filed in any court having competent jurisdiction

over the relevant subject matter, any letter of protest submitted to the USPTO, any request for an extension of the time to oppose a Third Party's mark, or any opposition proceeding commenced with the TTAB.

- 8. "<u>Person/Entity</u>" shall mean any natural person, firm, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, association, contractor, consultant, expert, institution, corporation, unincorporated organization, trust, business entity, any other legal entity, or other entity of any description.
 - 9. "Third Party(ies)" shall mean all Persons other than Rusty and Image 10.
 - 10. "TTAB" shall mean the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board of the USPTO
 - 11. "USPTO" shall mean the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
- 12. "You" and "Your" shall refer to the named Opposer in this action, Image Ten, Inc. The terms "You" or "Your" shall also refer to Your agents, Your employees, Your representative, Your insurance companies, their agents, their employees, Your attorneys, Your accountants, Your investigators, or any Person/Entity(s) (as defined above) acting on Your behalf or at Your request.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. These Requests for Production are continuing in character so as to require prompt further responses to these requests if additional information is obtained or if you learn that the response is in some material respect incomplete or incorrect.
- 2. If and to the extent you refuse to produce any documents or portions thereof upon any claim of privilege, please state with particularity the privilege(s) claimed and all foundational facts upon which you base each claim of privilege, including a description of each document, its date, author, recipient or addressee, subject matter, custodian, and the names of any other individuals with access to the document.
- 3. If you contend that only a portion of a document described in this Request for Production of Documents is privileged or otherwise not subject to production, you are instructed to produce a copy of the entire document deleting that portion deemed privileged or otherwise not subject to production. With respect to the deleted portion of any such document, to the

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extent that the produced portion of the document does not do so, you are instructed to provide the same information, which would be provided if the entire document were produced.

- 4. You are instructed to produce all documents described in this Request for Production of Documents that are within your possession, custody, or control. For purposes of this request, a document shall be deemed within your possession, custody, or control if (a) it is in your or your agents' physical possession or custody; or (b) it is not in your or your agents' physical possession or custody, but you have the legal right to obtain it. Thus, this request reaches not only all documents within the physical possession or custody of you and your directors, officers, or managerial employees and members, but also all documents within the possession or custody of people or entities over whom you or your directors, officers, and managerial employees and members have control, such as secretaries, subordinates, attorneys, accountants, agents, affiliates, subsidiaries, and associated companies. If you have knowledge of the existence of any document(s) described in this Request for Production of Documents, but contend that it is not within your or your agents' possession, custody, or control, you are instructed to provide the following information with respect to each document: (a) a description of the document in as much detail and with as much particularity as possible; (b) the number of pages comprising the document; (c) the name of the person or persons who prepared or authored the document; (d) the name of each person to whom the document was addressed and distributed; (e) the name of each person who received a copy of the document; (f) the date on the document; (g) a specific description of the contents of the document; and (h) the basis for your objection to production of the document.
- 5. If any document otherwise required to be produced pursuant to this Request for Production has been destroyed or lost, state: (a) the approximate date on which the destruction occurred; (b) the manner in which the destruction occurred; (c) the reason for the destruction; (d) the specific contents and form of the document; (e) the name of each person or persons who prepared or authored the document; (f) the name of each person to whom the document was addressed or distributed; (g) the name of each person who received a copy of the document; (h)

the date of the document; and (i) the name of the person under custody or possession of the

- The use of the singular form of any word used herein includes the plural form,
- The use of the masculine form of any word used herein includes the feminine and
- "And" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively to bring within the scope of the request all information and responses within the general scope of the

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

Produce copies of all licenses that identify You as a

Produce copies of licenses that identify You as the

Produce copies of all assignments of the Mark.

Produce all **Documents** that evidence your

Produce copies of complaints and other documents filed by You or on Your behalf regarding any Action You have filed regarding the Mark.

Produce copies of financial statements showing all income earned by you from use of the Mark for Motion Pictures in the last 20 years.

Produce all other Documents in Your possession, not produced in response to Requests #1-6 above, that in any manner reference, memorialize, acknowledge, mention, discuss or otherwise pertain to Your ownership of the Mark for Motion

Produce all Documents to support the claims You

1	Request for Production No. 9:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
2	Request for Admission #1 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
3	Request for Production No. 10:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
4	Request for Admission #2 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
5	Request for Production No. 11:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
6	Request for Admission #3 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
7	Request for Production No. 12:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
8	Request for Admission #4 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
9	Request for Production No. 13:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
10	Request for Admission #5 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
11	Request for Production No. 14:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
12	Request for Admission #6 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
13	Request for Production No. 15:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
14	Request for Admission #7 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
15	Request for Production No. 16:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
16	Request for Admission #8 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
17	Request for Production No. 17:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
18	Request for Admission #9 in Rusty Lemora	ande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
19	Request for Production No. 18:	Produce all Documents to support your answer to
20	Request for Admission #10 in Rusty Lemon	rande's First Set of Requests for Admission.
21	Request for Production No. 19:	Produce copies of all tax returns in any years in
22	which You claim to have received income	or revenue from use of the of the Mark.
23	Request for Production No. 20:	Produce copies of all receipts and invoices in any
24	years in which You claim to have received	income or revenue from use of the Mark.
25	Request for Production No. 21:	Produce copies of all tax returns in any years in
26	-	ceived income or revenue from use of the of the
27	which ivii. John A. Russo Claims to have le	cerved income of revenue from use of the of the

Mark.

Request for Production No. 22: Produce copies of all tax returns in any years in which Mr. Russell Streiner claims to have received income or revenue from use of the of the Mark.

Request for Production No. 23: Produce copies of all tax returns in any years in which Mr. Mr. Gary Streiner claims to have received income or revenue from use of the of the Mark.

Request for Production No. 24: Produce copies of all invoices and receipts in any years in which You claim to have received income or revenue from use of the Mark for tee-shirts, toys, and other merchandise as described in your Answers to Interrogatories, Set 1.

Request for Production No. 25: Produce all correspondence, including copies of agreements, between You and Robert Lucas as referenced in your Answer to Interrogatory 15.

Request for Production No. 26: Produce all documents evidencing annual gross revenue received from the conduct of entertainment media production for each of the past five years as described in Interrogatory No 31.

Request for Production No. 27: Provide copies of all documents evidencing annual gross revenue You have received from your use or licensing of the Mark for the production of a Motion Picture in the last ten years.

Request for Production No. 28: Produce copies of all documents which evidence each documentary concerning the title "Night of the Living Dead" and the Mark as reported by you in the answer to Interrogatory N. 33.

Request for Production No. 29: Provide copies of all documents evidencing any revenue generating activity regarding the Mark as described by you in answer to Interrogatory No. 34.

Request for Production No. 30: Provide copes of all licenses for action figures, toys, T-shirts, videos, movie stills and similar as described by you in your answer to Interrogatory No. 34.

Request for Production No. 31: Provide all written documents evidencing the horror conventions described by you in Answer to Interrogatory No. 34.

Request for Production No. 32: Provide documentary evidence of the 'merchandise and signatures from actors, director and writers are provided on various memorabilia items including copies of original movie posers for the movie' as described by you in your answer to Interrogatory No. 34.

Request for Production No. 33: Provide documentary evidence of the licenses You described in your answer to Interrogatory No. 35 for action figures, toys, T-Shirts, videos, movie stills and various memorabilia.

Request for Production No. 34: Provide copies of receipts, invoices or any written documentation of income relived for the providing of signatures on various memorabilia items including copies of movie posters as described in your answer to Interrogatory

Request for Production No. 35: Provide written documents evidencing the 'various documentaries and anniversary release of the movie" as stated in your answer to Interrogatory 35.

Request for Production No. 36: Provide written documents evidencing the 'new versions of the original film' which You state you have 'marketed' in your answer to Interrogatory #35.

Request for Production No. 37: Provide written evidence of the two documentary films you describe in your answer to Interrogatory No. 37.

Request for Production No. 38: Provide written documentation evidencing the 'trust' referred to in your answer to Interrogatory No. 4.

Request for Production No. 39: Provide written documentation of the continuing 'required corporate tax payments' as described by you in your answer to Interrogatory #45.

Request for Production No. 40: Provide written evidence of the 'corporate fees' you claim Image 10 has paid, since inception in 1967 until the present, as described in your answer to Interrogatory #46

Request for Production No. 42: Produce all Documents to support your answer to Request for Admission #34 in Rusty Lemorande's First Set of Requests for Admission.

Request for Production No. 43: Provide written evidence of the licensing of its trademark Night of the Living Dead and images from the movie Night of the living Dead since the movie was released in 1968.

Request for Production No. 44: Provide all documents, including correspondence, pertaining to the transfer of the registration from SphereWerx, LLC to Image 10.

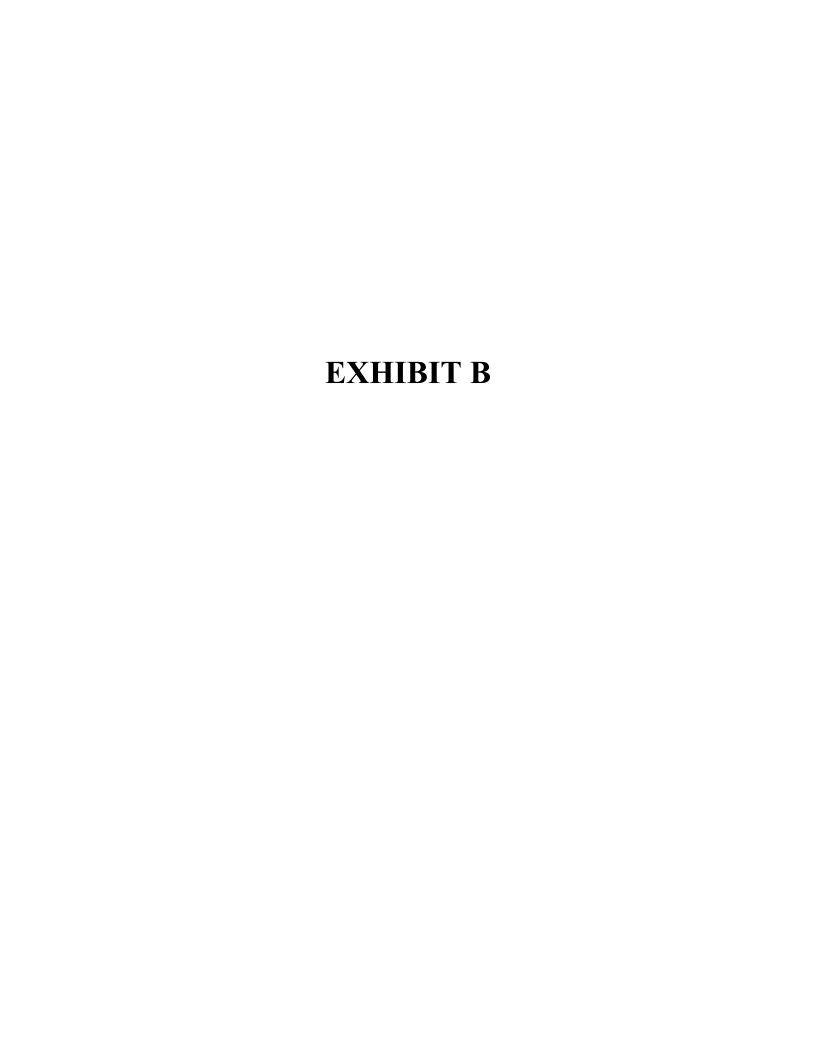
Request for Production No. 45: Provide all documents, including correspondence pertaining to the 'previous relationship' and 'work in the past' between SphereWerx LLC and Image 10.

Request for Production No. 46: Produce copies of all interviews mentioned and described in Answer to Interrogatory #36 unless reasonably available on the Internet, and in such instance(s):

Request for Production No. 47: Produce the links to the readily available interviews as mentioned and described in Answer to Interrogatory #36.

Request for Production No. 48: Provide written evidence of the existence and occurrence of the 'activities' You describe in your answer to Interrogatory #47.

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2	Certificate of Service
3	A copy of Rusty Lemorande's First Set of Interrogatories in Opposition No. 91233690 was
4	A copy of Rusty Lemorande's First Set of Interrogatories in Opposition No. 91233690 was served by email on March 13, 2018 upon Farah Bhatti at the Buchalter Firm, 18400 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 800 Irvine, CA 92612-0514
5	/s/ Pusty Lamoranda
6	/s/ Rusty Lemorande Rusty Lemorande
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Rusty Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com>

OBJECTION TO PRODUCTION OF TAX RETURNS

5 messages

Rusty Lemorande lemorande@gmail.com

Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 8:30 AM

To: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>, "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Hello:

I once again ask for some clarification (and support) for your argument that tax returns aren't discoverable. I've provided one in some detail. Obviously, a bald assertion from me would not be persuasive to you. It works both ways.

This is my third inquiry, for the record.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

--

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046 tel: 323 309 6146

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile Tel 323 309 6146

Meeks, Michael L. <mmeeks@buchalter.com>

Tue, Mar 20, 2018 at 8:53 AM

To: Rusty Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com >, "Bhatti, Farah P." < fbhatti@buchalter.com >

Mr. Lemorande:

First, none of your requests for production seek tax returns. Second, your requests for production were invalid for the reasons stated, including the excessive number of requests. Third, it has long been recognized that tax returns are privileged from discovery Aliotti v. Senora, 217 F.R.D. 496, 497 (C.D. Cal. 2003); Land Ocean Logistics, Inc. v. Aqua Gulf Corp., 181 F.R.D. 229, 238 (W.D.N.Y. 1998). Fourth, even if the tax returns were sought and were not privileged, they would be protected from disclosure and subject to an attorneys eyes only designation, which you could not access.

Regards,

Michael Meeks

Buchalter

A Professional Corporation

18400 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 800 | Irvine, CA 92612-0514

Direct Dial: (949) 224-6431 | Cell Phone: (213) 265-4432 | Direct Fax: (949) 224-6210 | Main Number: (949)

760-1121

Email: mmeeks@Buchalter.com | www.buchalter.com | Bio

From: Rusty Lemorande [mailto:lemorande@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 8:31 AM **To:** Bhatti, Farah P.; Meeks, Michael L.

Subject: OBJECTION TO PRODUCTION OF TAX RETURNS

[Quoted text hidden]

Notice To Recipient: This e-mail is meant for only the intended recipient of the transmission, and may be a communication privileged by law. If you received this e-mail in error, any review, use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. Please notify us immediately of the error by return e-mail and please delete this message and any and all duplicates of this message from your system. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. For additional policies governing this e-mail, please see http://www.buchalter.com/about/firm-policies/.

Rusty Lemorande lemorande@gmail.com

Fri, Mar 23, 2018 at 4:21 PM

To: "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>, "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>

Mr. Meeks:

Thanks for sending the case information which I have read.

I disagree with your assertion that the case support, as you state, that: tax returns are privileged from discovery.

In fact, the ruling in the case first states: "Both parties acknowledge that tax returns are not absolutely privileged."

Later it is stated: "A district court may only order the production of a plaintiff's tax returns if they are relevant and when there is a compelling need for them because the information sought is not otherwise available."

The returns are relevant, there is a compelling need and the information sought is not otherwise available.

Please provide as per the previous requests.

Thank you.

Rusty Lemorande [Quoted text hidden]

Meeks, Michael L. <mmeeks@buchalter.com>
To: Rusty Lemorande <lemorande@gmail.com>
Cc: "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>

Fri, Mar 23, 2018 at 4:24 PM

You are not entitled to the tax returns for all the reasons previously stated.

Sent from my iPhone

[Quoted text hidden]



Rusty Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com>

Outstanding issues

Rusty Lemorande

Tue, Mar 13, 2018 at 12:43 AM

To: "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>, "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>

Hello:

As to TAX RETURNS -

In rebuttal to your proposition that they are not discoverable, I sent you a section from a relevant and ruling case decision on the matter, disputing your assertion, and requesting, once again, the tax returns.

I would think that if you dispute the information I sent, you would respond with your own dispositive info (e.g. statute, ruling). In other words, we would conduct an authentic 'meet and confer'.

Since you haven't responded, and because the discovery clock is ticking. I once again request the returns or a proper argument, with support, as to why they are not discoverable. They are obviously relevant. If you disagree, I ask that you argue that appropriately, as well.

As to PRIOR DOCUMENT REQUESTS -

In your response, you stated that certain documents would be forthcoming. I have been patiently waiting. However, thereafter, you sent a response stating that nothing would be produced. The prior promise of documents seems to have been dilatory. Please explain if my observation is incorrect.

Nevertheless, I will send you a new document request tomorrow which is within the limits.

As to CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY-EYES ONLY:

Please explain, in each instance where you assert that privilege, the basis for your assertion. Please provide the required privilege log, as well.

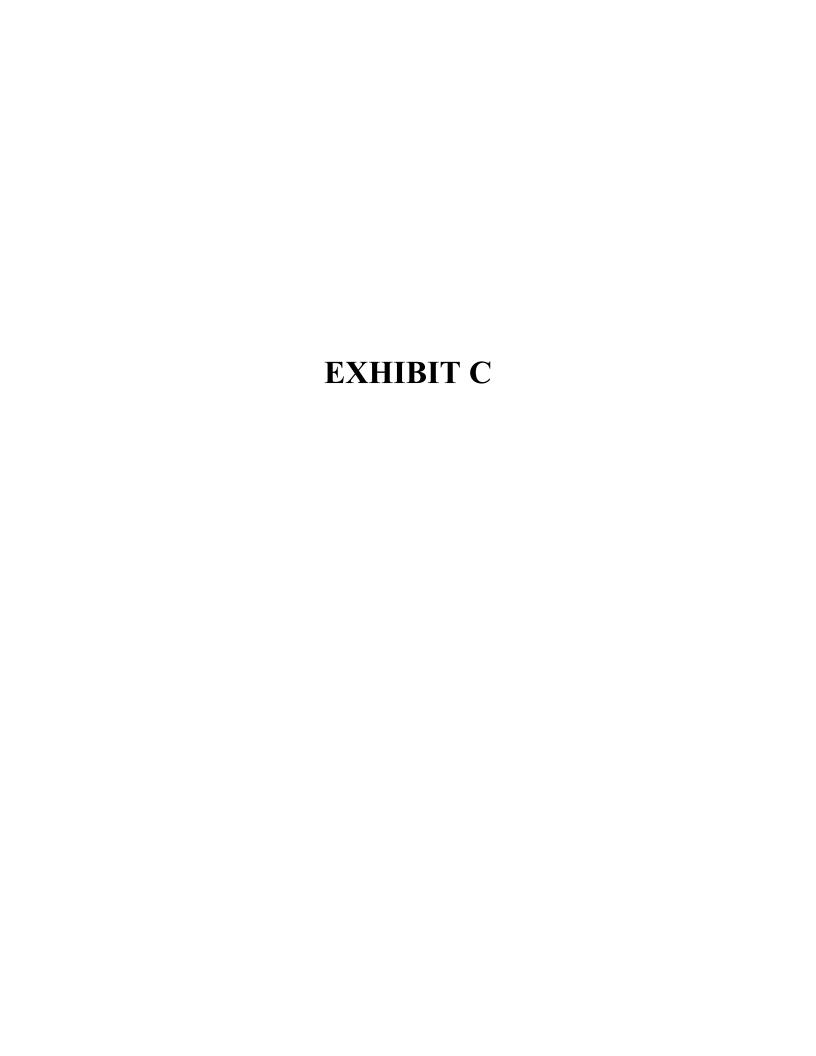
There are three issues described here. Would you please respond to each individually?

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

RH Lemorande P.O. Box 46771 LA, CA 90046

tel: 323 309 6146





Rusty Lemorande < lemorande@gmail.com>

Request for Stipulation

Rusty Lemorande Wed, Mar 14, 2018 at 5:38 PM To: "Meeks, Michael L." <mmeeks@buchalter.com>, "Bhatti, Farah P." <fbhatti@buchalter.com>

Michael:

In the TTAB order in February it was stated:

"Opposer is allowed thirty days from the mailing date of this order to serve supplemental responses to Applicant's first set of requests for admission, requests for

production, and interrogatories commensurate with the discovery guidelines set forth in this order." [Emphasis] added].

It seems to me more than reasonable to wait for your 'supplemental responses to Applicant's.... requests for production' as ordered by the TTAB.

Which I did.

However, you recently sent me (on March 7, the day before responses were due) a response that stated you were sending nothing. I'm confused. If that was your point of view and intention, why did you not communicate that to me within a few days after February 8th (the date of the order) rather than wait until the final moment? That would have allowed proper time to prepare and send a revised request (which I have).

In addition, the TTAB rule states:

"If a party upon which requests have been served believes that the number of requests served exceeds the limitation specified in this paragraph, and is not willing to waive this basis for objection, the party shall, within the time for (and instead of) serving responses BN 32054392v2 and specific objections to the requests, serve a general objection on the ground of their excessive number."

Arguably, by you responding to the first 75 requests, you waived the basis for objection. Please note the words 'if' in the rule, and then the words 'the party shall'.

Finally, in your initial responses, you stated as an answer to at least Requests 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 that documents were forthcoming.

Why would I not take you at your word, expecting those documents and allowing you time to produce them?

Therefore, I feel your suggestion below that I waited to correct my error is disingenuous. I don't think it is I who has been 'unreasonable' (as you state) but you. I worry this was tactical on your part, causing me to get boxed within a discovery window.

I, once again, renew my request for a 30-day extension stipulation. I also renew my request that you explain why you feel tax returns are not discoverable despite the legal research I provided to you.

Obviously, these are time-sensitive matters. I must ask for a response by the close of business tomorrow.

No waivers should be construed by the above.

Sincerely,

Rusty Lemorande

[Quoted text hidden]